

5 **WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. For a factory process comprising a plurality of tasks, a method to permit monitoring of the process, the method comprising:
displaying the factory process in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the process as a whole; and
10 selectively displaying each of the tasks in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective task.
2. The method of claim 1 including selectively displaying data representative of a status of the displayed process.
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3. The method of claim 1 including selectively displaying data representative of a status of one of the displayed tasks.
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4. The method of claim 1 including selectively displaying data representative of a status a plurality of the displayed tasks.
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5. The method of claim 1 wherein the process has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the parameter of the factory process.
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6. The method of claim 1 wherein one of the tasks has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of the task.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein a plurality of the tasks have a controllable parameter and the method includes selectively controlling the controllable parameter of each of the tasks.

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5 8. The method of claim 1 wherein one of the tasks has a sub-task and the method includes selectively displaying the sub-task in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective task.

10 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the sub-task has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of the sub-task.

15 10. The method of claim 1 wherein a plurality of the tasks has a respective plurality of sub-tasks and the method includes selectively displaying the sub-tasks in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective sub-tasks.

20 11. The method of claim 10 wherein each of the sub-tasks has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of the sub-tasks.

25 12. The method of claim 1 including:
 sensing a status of one of the tasks;
 determining if the sensed status is acceptable; and
 automatically displaying the task if the sensed status is not acceptable.

30 13. The method of claim 1 including:
 sensing a status of a plurality of the tasks; and
 determining if the sensed status of each of the plurality of tasks is acceptable; and
 automatically displaying one of the plurality of tasks if the sensed status of the one of the plurality of tasks is determined not to be acceptable.

14. For a factory process comprising a plurality of tasks, a method to permit monitoring of the process, the method comprising:

5 displaying the factory process in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the process as a whole;
10 selecting one of the tasks; and
 displaying data representative of a status of the selected one of the displayed tasks.

15 15. The method of claim 14 including displaying data representative of a status of a plurality of the displayed tasks.

15 16. The method of claim 14 wherein the process has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the parameter of the factory process.

20 17. The method of claim 14 wherein the one of the displayed tasks has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of the task.

20 18. The method of claim 14 wherein the plurality of tasks has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of each of the tasks.

25 19. The method of claim 14 wherein one of the tasks has a sub-task and the method includes selectively displaying the sub-task in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective task.

30 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the sub-task has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of the sub-task.

 21. The method of claim 14 wherein a plurality of the tasks has a respective plurality of sub-tasks and the method includes selectively displaying the sub-tasks in real-

5 time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective sub-tasks.

10 22. The method of claim 21 wherein each of the sub-tasks has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of the sub-tasks.

15 23. For a factory process comprising a plurality of tasks, a computer readable medium containing program instructions for execution by a processor to cause the processor to perform steps to permit monitoring of the process on a video display, the method comprising:
displaying the factory process in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the process as a whole; and
selectively displaying each of the tasks in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective task.

20 24. The method of claim 23 including selectively displaying data representative of a status of the displayed process.

25 25. The method of claim 23 including selectively displaying data representative of a status of one of the displayed tasks.

26. The method of claim 23 including selectively displaying data representative of a status a plurality of the displayed tasks.

30 27. The method of claim 23 wherein the process has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the parameter of the factory process.

28. The method of claim 23 wherein one of the tasks has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of the task.

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29. The method of claim 23 wherein a plurality of the tasks have a controllable parameter and the method includes selectively controlling the controllable parameter of each of the tasks.

10 30. The method of claim 23 wherein one of the tasks has a sub-task and the method includes selectively displaying the sub-task in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective task.

15 31. The method of claim 30 wherein the sub-task has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of the sub-task.

20 32. The method of claim 23 wherein a plurality of the tasks has a respective plurality of sub-tasks and the method includes selectively displaying the sub-tasks in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective sub-tasks.

25 33. The method of claim 32 wherein each of the sub-tasks has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of the sub-tasks.

30 34. The method of claim 23 including:
sensing a status of one of the tasks;
determining if the sensed status is acceptable; and
automatically displaying the task if the sensed status is not acceptable.

35. The method of claim 23 including:
sensing a status of a plurality of the tasks; and
determining if the sensed status of each of the plurality of tasks is acceptable; and

5 automatically displaying one of the plurality of tasks if the sensed status of the
one is determined not to be acceptable.

36. A system for monitoring a factory process, the factory process comprising a plurality of tasks, a system comprising:
10 means for displaying the factory process in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the process as a whole; and
means for selectively displaying each of the tasks in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective task.

15 37. The system of claim 36 including means for selectively displaying data representative of a status of the displayed process.

20 38. The system of claim 36 including means for selectively displaying data representative of a status of one of the displayed tasks.

39. The system of claim 36 including means for selectively displaying data representative of a status a plurality of the displayed tasks.

25 40. The system of claim 36 wherein the process has a controllable parameter and the system includes means for controlling the parameter of the factory process.

41. The system of claim 36 wherein one of the tasks has a controllable parameter and the system includes means for controlling the controllable parameter of the task.

30 42. The system of claim 36 wherein a plurality of the tasks have a controllable parameter and the system includes means for selectively controlling the controllable parameter of each of the tasks.

5 43. The system of claim 36 wherein one of the tasks has a sub-task and the system includes means for selectively displaying the sub-task in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective task.

10 44. The system of claim 43 wherein the sub-task has a controllable parameter and the system includes means for controlling the controllable parameter of the sub-task.

15 45. The system of claim 36 wherein a plurality of the tasks has a respective plurality of sub-tasks and the system includes means for selectively displaying the sub-tasks in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective sub-tasks.

20 46. The system of claim 45 wherein each of the sub-tasks has a controllable parameter and the system includes means for controlling the controllable parameter of the sub-tasks.

25 47. The system of claim 36 including:
means for sensing a status of one of the tasks;
means for determining if the sensed status is acceptable; and
means for automatically displaying the task if the sensed status is not acceptable.

48. The system of claim 36 including:
means for sensing a status of a plurality of the tasks; and
means for determining if the sensed status of each of the plurality of tasks is acceptable; and
means for automatically displaying one of the plurality of tasks if the sensed status of the one is determined not to be acceptable.

5 49. For a factory process comprising a plurality of tasks, wherein both the factory process and the tasks include controllable parameters, a method to permit monitoring and control of the process, the method comprising:

10 displaying the factory process in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the process as a whole;

15 selectively displaying data representative of a status of the displayed process; selectively controlling the factory process parameter; selectively displaying each of the tasks in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective task; selectively displaying data representative of a status a plurality of the displayed tasks; and selectively controlling the controllable parameter of each of the tasks

20 50. The method of claim 49 wherein one of the tasks has a sub-task and the method includes selectively displaying the sub-task in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective task.

25 51. The method of claim 50 wherein the sub-task has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of the sub-task.

30 52. The method of claim 50 wherein a plurality of the tasks has a respective plurality of sub-tasks and the method includes selectively displaying the sub-tasks in real-time as a three-dimensional, free-camera, computer generated representation of the respective sub-tasks.

53. The method of claim 52 wherein each of the sub-tasks has a controllable parameter and the method includes controlling the controllable parameter of the sub-tasks.

54. The method of claim 50 including:

5 sensing a status of one of the tasks;
 determining if the sensed status is acceptable; and
 automatically displaying the task if the sensed status is not acceptable.

10 55. The method of claim 50 including:
 sensing a status of a plurality of the tasks; and
 determining if the sensed status of each of the plurality of tasks is acceptable; and
 automatically displaying one of the plurality of tasks if the sensed status of the
 one is determined not to be acceptable.

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